the concerned university in consultation with State Government and U.G.C. The open university and distance education system also provide greater access to higher education to larger segments of the population.

Theft of missiles from an Ammunition special train

136. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 105 mm tank missiles were stolen from two wagons after breaking the locks of Ammunition special Train between Dhanbad and Gomoh station on 8th June, 1990; if so, what are the details of security arrangements made for safe transportation of ammunition, the circumstances under which these arrangements failed to prevent the theft and the details of missiles and other ammunitions found missing;

(b) whether any investigation in the theft has been conducted;

(c) the details of efforts made to recover the missiles;

(d) the details of steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents; and

(e) what disciplinary action has been taken against the concerned defence personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) An Ammunition Special Train had been despatched from Panagarh in West Bengal to Suranasi at 10.30 p.m. on 7.6.1990 under Army escort. The Special Train was carrying 105 mm Indian Field Gun ammunition. It was not carrying Tank ammunition or missiles. When the train arrived at Gomoh station on the morning of 8.6.1990, the locks and seals of two wagons were found broken by the escort party and one box of ammunition each from these two wagons was found missing. Each box contained 2 rounds of 105 mm IFG HE plugged ammunition.

An adequately strong escort party consisting of 2 JCOs, 3 NCOs and 24 ORs had been deployed to provide security to the wagons containing the ammunition.

A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the circumstances under which the security arrangements failed to prevent the theft.

(b) First Information Reports were promptly lodged with the Railway Police of Gomoh and Dhanbad stations and an Army Staff Court of Inquiry has also been ordered.

(c) Combing operations have been carried out jointly by the RPF, the CRPF and the local police. Further police investigations are in progress.

(d) Detailed instructions already exist for the prevention of such thefts. However, based on the results of the detailed investigations, further measures as necessary would be initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

(e) Action will be taken based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry which is already in progress.

Report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau on the pay offs in Bofors Gun deal

137. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Stockholm